

# Beef shortage leaves Goa scrambling for meat on Christmas Eve

Police deployed at markets to keep the peace; restaurateurs and caterers report losses; citizens annoyed, but hope to purchase the celebratory staple after shops reopen on Christmas morning

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The ongoing beef shortage has triggered widespread frustration and anger across Goa, with many citizens expressing dissatisfaction at the government's inability to resolve the issue. The crisis, now in its fourth consecutive day, has led to market disruptions and financial losses for vendors, restaurants, and eateries.

In Margao and other parts of the State, beef shops remained shut on Tuesday, leaving consumers struggling to source the staple food just days before Christmas celebrations. At the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) market in Margao, people anxiously gathered outside beef shops, waiting in vain for stock to arrive. To prevent any untoward incidents, police personnel were deployed to maintain



law and order in the area.

Advocate Anacleto Viegas, spotted at the Margao market attempting to buy beef, criticised the lack of government action. "Closing down shops is not a solution," he remarked. "These are legitimate businesses, and the government

has a responsibility to provide them with security. Allowing a few individuals to disrupt the beef trade is not only unfair but also illegal."

Viegas added that it was crucial for the government to support beef vendors and traders by ensuring their protection. He emphasised that the government

should not remain silent on the matter, stating, "Beef is a staple food around the world. What is happening here in Goa is unjust, and the authorities must act swiftly to resolve this issue."

Several consumers voiced their dissatisfaction at the

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**-Anacleto Viegas, advocate**

lack of beef availability during the peak festive season. A frustrated customer at the SGPDA market said, "We have the right to eat what we want. Preventing us from accessing beef is unfair and unacceptable. The government must address this issue immediately."

For vendors and traders, the impact of the crisis is particularly severe. Many

have suffered significant financial losses due to the high demand for beef during the Christmas season. Typically, beef sales peak during this time of year, with restaurants and caterers increasing their orders to accommodate celebratory feasts, weddings and gatherings.

However, the ongoing crisis has left restaurant owners struggling to find alternatives to meet customer expectations during Christmas. For many, beef dishes form a vital part of their festive menus, and the shortage has forced them to explore other options, much to their dismay.

Beef vendors pointed to the ripple effects on their livelihood and called on the government for urgent action. They lamented the lack of communication and foresight in addressing what they termed a preventable crisis.

## Vanarmare tribe members receive birth certificates for the first time

During 'Good Governance' week, the govt also sanctioned aid to families whose homes were damaged during the monsoon

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** In a historic step towards empowering marginalised communities, 85 members of the Vanarmare tribe from Shiroda have been issued birth certificates for the first time, enabled by the newly implemented process allowing Deputy Collectors to register late births and deaths.

On Monday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant presented birth certificates to 25 members of the tribe, including children, at the South Goa District Collectorate. The ceremony was part of the ongoing 'Good Governance Week', a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing administrative efficiency and service delivery.

The issuance of birth certificates to the Vanarmare tribe addresses a long-pending demand. Significant progress was achieved during 'Good Governance Week', with the district administration ensuring the completion of documentation for 25 individuals and advancing the process for the remaining members

of the community.

Speaking about the initiative, South Goa District Collector Egna Cleetus revealed that camps were held across all seven talukas in the district. During these camps, the administration achieved a 100 percent resolution rate for 227 online complaints submitted through CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), PGRS, and the CM Helpline.

Additionally, 928 cases concerning mutations, land conversions, and certifications like residence and income were resolved. The administration also addressed all 568 pending claims under the Goa and Central Calamity Relief Schemes, ensuring prompt relief for affected citizens.

CM Sawant highlighted further achievements of the initiative, announcing that Rs 2.8 crore in sanction orders had been distributed to beneficiaries under the disaster management plan. The funds are targeted at providing relief to families whose homes were damaged during the monsoons.



## WHAT GIFT WOULD YOU ASK SANTA CLAUS TO BRING TO GOA?

**I just want to ask Santa for one thing: improve government facilities for Goans, including education, water, and electricity. For years, we've been promised Goa would become like Singapore, but instead, it's nearing Somalia-like conditions. I also wish Santa would cleanse our politicians' minds to eradicate corruption. Ultimately, I want Santa to enhance the welfare of Goans and uplift Goa**

**-Sarfranz Ankalji, activist**

**Let me wish every reader a Merry Christmas. The first thing would be that this government be given the wisdom to stop all destruction of environment and our pristine land. Then to have very good infrastructure –good roads in every part of Goa, good water supply to every human being in the State, irrespective of caste, religion, creed; good power supply without any cuts. Very important would be people are suffering with soaring prices; then you have soaring unemployment, which is the highest in India.**

**-Trajano D'Mello, political commentator**

**One of the gifts I will ask is that our Goa be saved. There are lots of problems in Goa this year, such that people have suffered tremendously. Unemployment tops the list; our youth deserve jobs without having to pay bribes. The government's promises, like three cylinders and timely pensions for women, remain unfulfilled. Our courts are clogged with cases, but judges are scarce. Environmental degradation is rampant – trees cut, land grabbed, and mountains destroyed. I pray to Santa Claus to protect our environment**

**-Tara Kerkar, activist**

**This year, I'm asking Santa Claus for just one gift: save our tiny Goa. Protect our springs, rivers, wells, hills, fields, forests, animals, and birds. We've witnessed the devastating impact of environmental destruction. I'll pray for wisdom among our politicians and opportunities for our youth, so they can secure meaningful jobs. I'll also pray for Goa's freedom from drugs, so our youth can reach their full potential. Most of all, I'll pray for our politicians to develop the foresight to preserve Goa, our heavenly haven, for future generations**

**-Xencor Polgi, social activist**

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## HOLLY JOLLY ON THE STREETS



On Christmas Eve, children from a charitable trust go caroling on the streets near Immaculate Conception Church, Panjim, on Tuesday; a youth cycles past a massive Christmas-themed installation and crib put up at Portais, Panjim



SAGUN GAWADE

## Davorlim panchayat acts tough on illegal gaddas at Power House jn, removes seven

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Davorlim Village Panchayat conducted a drive on Monday to dismantle illegal gaddas (food carts) and other unauthorised business structures located along the roadside near the power house.

The operation, which spanned several hours, resulted in the removal of 7-8 illegal gaddas from the area.

Sarpanch Saiesh Rajadyax has urged the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) to take swift action

**The local authorities have been cracking down on illegal eateries following the LPG cylinder blast at a tea shop in Rumdamol-Davorlim a month ago. The blaze that ensued gutted the shop and vehicles parked around, in the busy locality**

to address the encroachments and illegal vending activities near the Aquem power house junction, as the jurisdiction lies with the MMC.

Rajadyax also raised

concerns over alleged interference by a Margao Municipal engineer during the operation. "The engineer had the audacity to call and try to stop the action against the illegal gaddas

and encroachments on the Davorlim side of the junction," said the Sarpanch.

In addition to clearing the illegal structures, the Panchayat issued warnings to fish vendors, instructing them to remove encroachments from the roadside or face further punitive measures.

"We will formally request the Chief Officer of the Margao Municipal Council to take immediate action against the encroachments at the power house junction, as public safety and the welfare of Davorlim

residents must remain a priority," Rajadyax stated.

The Sarpanch stressed the Panchayat's resolute stance against illegal activities. "With today's demolition drive, we want to send a clear message to those involved in such practices: the Panchayat will not tolerate them. This action was initiated in response to demands raised during the gram sabha, and we will continue taking similar measures in consultation with Panchayat members," he affirmed.

**WATCH THE EXPOSITION CHRISTMAS MASS**



**Day 35, in Konkani at 5 pm on Herald TV and YouTube. Just scan this QR code and watch the Holy Mass on your cell phone.**

**NOTE: THE QR CODE WILL BE ACTIVE ONLY AT 5PM**

## Footfalls down, costs up: Festive margins thin for Christmas vendors

**Holiday cheer fades for pop-up vendors and traders who bank on seasonal sales, as inflation pinches and competition grows**

ANIL MISHRA

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**PANJIM:** The festive season in Goa has brought mixed fortunes for small vendors selling Christmas décor and knick-knacks, as the growing presence of online retailers and a surge in local shops have led to dwindling sales and thinning profit margins.

Both permanent and seasonal vendors, who

**The business this year is so far okay**

**-Floyd Pereira, vendor of groceries and Christmas goodies**



**Customers often bargain, citing lower prices online or at bigger stores, and we have no choice but to lower our rates**

**-Ameen Saheb Ganjikatti, decorations vendor**

heavily rely on the Christmas market, have voiced concerns about a significant drop in customers and margins. Many attribute this to rising competition and changing consumer habits.

Roshan Kale, a vendor operating a stall selling

Christmas decorations, shared his struggles. "We source our products mostly from Mumbai and set up stalls about 20 days before Christmas. However, with rising input costs, wholesalers are supplying goods at higher rates, yet we're

forced to sell them at the same or marginally increased prices as last year," he explained.

Kale highlighted the squeeze on margins, saying, "For example, a cap that cost us Rs 45 last year is Rs 48 this year. We can only sell it at Rs 50 or

Rs 55. With so many new shops emerging, we cannot afford to charge higher prices and risk losing customers."

Similarly, Babu Desai, a vendor dealing in Christmas decorations, observed, "Prices of items have risen by 10

to 20 percent. However, people are delaying their shopping this year. Earlier, we had fewer competitors, but now, many shops are selling the same items, leaving us with fewer customers."

The sentiment was echoed by other vendors

**The crowds are missing this year. Customer numbers are visibly lower than before**

**-Vipul Rathi, proprietor of a dry fruit shop**



**Wholesalers are supplying goods at higher rates, yet we're forced to sell them at almost the same prices as last year**

**-Roshan Kale, decorations vendor**

like Ameen Saheb Ganjikatti, who stated, "Footfall has reduced drastically. Reasons range from more online shopping options and items being available in malls, to the sheer number of vendors in the market now."

Amid the vendors' struggles, buyers also expressed their challenges. Charlotte D'Costa, a homemaker shopping for Christmas decorations, noted, "The rising prices of sweets and decorations are affecting our household budgets. Everything is 10 to 20 percent costlier compared to last year."

Despite the concerns, some vendors reported relatively stable business. Floyd Pereira, who runs a Tea Centre and sells homemade food items, stated, "The business this year is so far okay."

<b>MAX. TEMP</b>	<b>31°C</b>
<b>MIN. TEMP</b>	<b>20°C</b>

**idharudhar**



One nation, one election, one dry day will boost us.